

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EURE-00 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 DRC-01 EA-11 /169 W
----- 081067

P R 091539Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8031

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2817

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR DA NATO EC

SUBJ: US INTERESTS SEEN UNDAMAGED BY FALL OF
JORGENSEN GOVERNMENT

REF: COPENHAGEN 2783, 2793, 2806

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SUMMARY: US INTERESTS MAY BE BETTER SERVED BY WHATEVER

GOVERNMENT EVENTUALLY TAKES PLACE OF ANKER JORGENSEN'S
FADING SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION BUT DIFFERENCES
COULD BE MORE ATMOSPHERIC THAN REAL. ANTICIPATED
DIFFICULTY IN FORMING NEW GOVERNMENT MAY COMPLICATE LIFE
FOR DENMARK'S EC PARTNERS BUT DANES' RELATIONSHIP TO
NATO LIKELY TO REMAIN UNCHANGED. END SUMMARY.

1. DANISH NEWSPAPERS HAVE GREETED ANKER JORGENSEN'S
SURPRISE CALL FOR SNAP GENERAL ELECTION WITH ALMOST
UNIVERSAL ALARM, PREDICTING POLITICAL BLOODBATH,
CATASTROPHE AND CHAOS AS RESULT. INTERIOR MINISTER
EGON JENSEN TOLD ME TODAY HE EXPECTED HIS SOCIAL
DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO SUFFER SEVERE LOSSES AND FEARED
THAT FORMATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD PROVE DIFFICULT,
PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF VOTES WHICH WOULD GO TO MAVERICK
ANTI-TAX LAWYER MOGENS GLISTRUP. HE NOTED IN PASSING
THAT LONG PENDING TAX EVASION CHARGES AGAINST GLISTRUP
LIKELY TO REACH COURTS IN A MONTH OR SO, I.E., AFTER
ELECTIONS. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT THERE MAY BE AS MANY
AS TWELVE POLITICAL PARTIES CONTESTING NEW ELECTIONS,
IN CONTRAST TO FIVE PARTIES CURRENTLY REPRESENTED IN
PARLIAMENT.

2. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT FALL OF JORGENSEN GOVERNMENT
UNLIKELY TO AFFECT US INTERESTS ADVERSELY AS IN ALL
PROBABILITY SUCCESSOR GOVERNMENT, WHEN FORMED, WILL BE
AT LEAST AS FAVORABLE TO US. ONLY DANGER TO US INTERESTS
WOULD APPEAR TO ARISE IF DANES UNABLE TO FORM NEW
GOVERNMENT WITHOUT INORDINATE DELAY, AND EVEN IN THAT
CONTINGENCY DAMAGE TO OUR INTERESTS LIKELY TO BE MINIMAL.
DENMARK'S EC PARTNERS NATURALLY FACE MORE DIFFICULT AND
URGENT PROBLEMS AS RESULT OF GOVERNMENTAL HIATUS HERE,
ESPECIALLY BECAUSE OF THIS COUNTRY'S ROLE IN PRESIDENCY
OF EC COUNCIL UNTIL END OF 1973. JENSEN ASSURED ME,
HOWEVER, THAT CURRENT GOVERNMENT, WHICH STAYS ON IN
CARETAKER CAPACITY, INTENDS TO CARRY ON WITH ITS EC
OBLIGATIONS, INCLUDING HOSTING FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING
NOVEMBER 20 AND SUMMIT MEETING DECEMBER 14-15 IN
COPENHAGEN (SEE SEPTWL). OTHER EC MEMBERS MAY, OF
COURSE, WISH TO SUGGEST POSTPONEMENT OF SUMMIT MEETING
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OR CHANGE OF VENUE.

3. MOST RECENT PUBLIC OPINION POLLS INDICATE THAT
SOCIAL DEMOCRATS CAN EXPECT TO LOSE AT LEAST TWENTY
OF THEIR PRESENT 70 FOLKETING SEATS, WITH FAR LEFT
SOCIALIST PEOPLES PARTY (SF) LIKELY TO BE ONLY SUBSTANTIAL
GAINER AMONG PARTIES CURRENTLY REPRESENTED IN PARLIAMENT.
TOGETHER, HOWEVER, THEY ARE UNLIKELY TO ATTAIN THEIR

PRESENT COMBINED TOTAL OF 89 VOTES, ON WHICH JORGENSEN'S SLENDER MARGIN OF PARLIAMENTARY CONTROL WAS BASED. PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE, THEREFORE, THAT SF WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN WHATEVER GOVERNMENT IS FINALLY PUT TOGETHER AFTER ELECTIONS, WHICH SHOULD REDUCE ITS ABILITY TO INFLUENCE DANISH OFFICIAL POSITIONS IN DIRECTIONS UNFAVORABLE TO USG.

4. FOUR PARTY COMPROMISE ON DEFENSE REORGANIZATION WHICH WAS FINALLY AGREED UPON LAST SPRING DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE IN DANGER AS FOUR PARTIES CONCERNED SEEM CERTAIN TO MAINTAIN PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY AMONG THEMSELVES. TOGETHER THEY COMMAND 160 OF 189 VOTES IN CURRENT PARLIAMENT. MAINTENANCE OF NATO LINKS AND CURRENT LEVELS OF DEFENSE SPENDING THEREFORE APPEAR ASSURED FOR NEXT SEVERAL YEARS.

5. ANKER JORGENSEN'S TALENT FOR MAKING UNTACTFUL REMARKS, ESPECIALLY ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WILL NOT BE MISSED ALTHOUGH HIS ERRORS OF JUDGMENT IN THIS AREA WERE USUALLY MORE THE RESULT OF CLUMSINESS THAN MALEVOLENCE. WHEELHORSES OF JORGENSEN GOVERNMENT IN EXTERNAL MATTERS (K.B. ANDERSEN, IVAN NORGAARD, PER HAEKKERUP, ETC.) HAVE USUALLY BEEN SYMPATHETIC TO US POSITIONS. ESPECIALLY SINCE CONCLUSION OF US ROLE IN VIETNAM CONFLICT, AND THEY MAY BE HARD TO REPLACE. FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSEN, IN PARTICULAR, HAS GROWN SIGNIFICANTLY IN UNDERSTANDING OVER PAST TWO YEARS AND HAS BECOME AN OUTSPOKEN SUPPORTER OF NATO AND TRANSATLANTIC TIES GENERALLY.

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